

INCOMING TELEGRAM

Approved For Release 2002/07/03 : CIA-RDP82-00803R000400150101-8

Department of State

Cyprus Status

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Action

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Info

FROM: NICOSIA

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TO: Secretary of State

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NO: 66, JULY 31, 1 PM

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DEPTEL 51.

SEE EMBASSY'S A-24 AND A-31 RE PRESS REPORTS ON US COMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES. SUMMARY AIRGRAM WITH COMMENTS FOLLOWS.

EMBASSY DOES NOT BELIEVE PRESS REPORTS ARE INSPIRED BY GOC ALTHOUGH THEY DO COINCIDE WITH DESIRES WITHIN GOC TO RESTRICT PRESENT UNLIMITED TAX EXEMPTION OF NON-DIPLOMATIC US PERSONNEL.

TIMING OF ARTICLES APPEARS PRODUCT OF COMMUNIST EFFORT CAPITALIZE AND ENLARGE ON BRIGGS TESTIMONY. SUCH ARTICLES MAKE SPLASH DURING SUMMER QUIET, WHEN PRESS IS LOOKING FOR "NEWS" OF LOCAL INTEREST. MOSCOW PUBLICATION OF HAMILTON LETTER OF COURSE REINFORCED AND PROLONGED OUTCRY OF COMMUNIST ORGAN KARAVGHI.

WHILE WE NATURALLY CANNOT IGNORE EXISTENCE SUCH PRESS ATTACKS WE DO NOT REGARD THEM TO DATE AS SERIOUS ENOUGH TO CAUSE IMMEDIATE CONCERN OR TO WARRANT RESPONSE BEYOND THAT RELEASED TO CYPRUS NEWS AGENCY JULY 15.

GP-3.

MCKIERNAN

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